

Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND CAIRO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGSC PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ALLON COMMENTS ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS

1. ALLON MET WITH ICAF STUDY GROUP THIS MORNING FOR ABOUT HOUR AND FORTY MINUTES. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS OF OVER HOUR, HE WAS WIDE-RANGING, ELOQUENT--AND VERY HARD LINE. HE WAS EXUDING CONFIDENCE AND MADE SEVERAL GLOWING REFERENCES TO SENATE LETTER. IN CONTEXT HIS PRESENTATION, HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY HARSH WHEN REFERRING TO EGYPTIANS AND SEVERAL TIMES MADE POINT EMPHATICALLY THAT ISRAEL WOULD ONLY MAKE ANOTHER DEAL WITH EGYPTIANS CONCEDING TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL RETURN, WHICH FORMALLY AGREED TO AND PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGD BY GOE.

2. AT END OF QUESTION PERIOD(AND AFTER SCHEDULED TIME HAD RUN OUT), ALLON TOOK MORE TIME AGAIN TO RAISE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT FOR INTERM AGREEMENT. IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER REMARKS, HE APPEARED QUITE CONCILIATORY, BOTH IN TONE AND CONTENT OF PRESENTATION.

3. ALLON STRESSED THAT SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN IMPORTANT EXERCISE WHICH LAID GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THREE INTERESTED PARTIES(U.S., ISRAEL AND EGYPT) TO BUILD UPON. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NON-USE OF FORCE FORMULA WAS WORTH RECONSIDERING. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT DURATION OF AGREEMENT WAS OF GREAT

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IMPORTANCE AND THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT LIVE WITH FORMULA PROPOSED

IN MARCH WHICH DEPENDED ON ANNUAL EXERCISE INVOLVING " INSECURITY COUNCIL" (A PHRASE HE DELIGHTED IN USING THROUGHOUT MORNING SESSION). ALLON ALSO MENTIONED BOYCOTT AND MUTUAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ISSUES IN FAMILIAR TERMS.

4. IN CONCLUSION , ALLON STATED THAT " IF EGYPT IS WILLING TO RECONSIDER CERTAIN OF ITS ATTITUDES, ISRAEL WILL DO THE SAME."

5. COMMENT. LAST NIGHT AT FRG RECEPTION, ALLON ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF I WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING ICAF GROUP TODAY AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WHEN I REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE. IT MAY BE HE WANTED TO BE SURE HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT(AND HIS COMPLAINT ABOUT USE OF PHRASE " SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL", SEPTEL) WERE REPORTED. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGE OF WHETHER HIS VIEWS CONTAIN ANYTHING PARTICULARLY NEW RE POSSIBLE NEW NEGOTIATIONS OR IF THERE IS SOME UNUSUAL SIGNIFICANCE IN FACT HE MADE COMMENTS ON DAY AFTER NEWS OF SENATE LETTER MADE PUBLIC.

6. BASED ON INFO AVAILABLE HERE, I THINK THERE MAY BE SOME SIGNIFICANCE TO FACT ALLON PRAISED (ALBEIT QUALIFIED) NON-USE OF FORCE FORMULATION AND NEVER EVEN MENTIONED PHRASE " NON-BELLIGERENCY." ALSO, HIS EMPHASIS ON DURATION OF AGREEMENT SEEMS TO SIGNAL SOME SHIFT OF EMPHASIS WHICH WE HAVE ALSO NOTICED IN PRESS (AND WE UNDERSTAND DEFMIN PERES HAS EMPHASIZED DURATION ISSUE IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS AND ISRAELI JOURNALISTS).

7. AS THE SEQUENCE OF DESIRED EVENTS RE MOVING AHEAD ON SECOND INTERIM AGREEMENT, ALLON MADE CLEAR GOI WAS WAITING FOR INITIATIVE FROM SADAT.
VELIOTES

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